

Task 1. Read the passage and choose the best answer.

The use of hot-air balloons can be traced back to the Three Kingdoms era of Chinese history (220-280 AD). Zhuge Liang used these early incarnations, known as Kongming lanterns, as military signals. The first manned flight on record took place in France on October 15th, 1783. In a balloon constructed by Jacques-Etienne Montgolfier, a Frenchman named Pilatre de Rozier was elevated eighty feet off the ground. Modern hot-air balloons, with their capacity to ascend or descend and occasionally 'steer' at the pilot's will, were first developed by Ed Yost in the 1950s. The Bristol Belle is generally regarded as the first modern hot-air balloon and had its inaugural flight in 1967. Since then, balloon technology has become extremely sophisticated. Some hot-air balloons have reached altitudes of 21,000 metres, travelled over 7,500 kilometres, and reached speeds of up to 400 kilometres per hour.

1. According to the passage, In which era did the hot-air balloons come into use?
A) Six dynasties (220-589 AD) B) Three kingdoms era (220-280 AD)
C) Shang dynasty (1600-1046 BC) D) Imperial China (221 BC – 1912 AD)
2. Who used the early incarnation of the hot-air balloons?
A) Liu Bei B) Cao Cao C) Sima Yi D) Zhuge Liang
3. When did the first manned hot air balloon come into use?
A) October 15, 1783 B) September 19, 1783
C) November 21, 1783 D) August 18, 1783
4. Who developed the Modern Day Hot-air Balloons?
A) Zhuge Liang B) Pilatre de Rozier
C) Ed Yost D) Joseph-Micheal Montgolfier
5. What was the name given to the first modern hot air balloon?
A) Roziere Balloons B) Aerostat Reveillon
C) Vijayapat Singhanian D) Bristol Belle

Task 2. Read the passage accurately and determine if the author's opinion in the provided statement agrees (Yes) or disagrees (No) with it or if it is not included (Not Given) in the passage.

The ecotourism business is still very much in need of a shake-up and a standardised approach. There are a few organisations that have sprung up in the last ten years or so that endeavour to educate travelers and operators about the benefits of responsible ecotourism. Founded in 1990, the Ecotourism Society (TES) is a non-profit organization of travel industry, conservation, and ecological professionals, which aims to make ecotourism a genuine tool for conservation and sustainable development. Helping to create inherent economic value in wilderness environments and threatened cultures has undoubtedly been one of the ecotourism movement's most notable achievements. TES organizes an annual initiative to further aid the development of the ecotourism industry. This year it is launching 'Your Travel Choice Makes a Difference', an educational campaign aimed at helping consumers understand the potential positive and negative impacts of their travel decisions. TES also offers guidance on the choice of ecotour and has established a register of approved ecotourism operators around the world.

Choose A, B or C to the following statements.

6. Over the decade, organisations have been introduced to educate travelers and visitors about the advantages of ecotourism.

A) Yes B) No C) No Given

7. Ecotourism business has acquired a strong position in the market.

A) Yes B) No C) No Given

8. The Ecotourism Society (TES) was first established in 1990 with the objective of making ecotourism a genuinely used tool for conservation and substantial development.

A) Yes B) No C) No Given

9. TES guides the travelers on the choice of their ecotours and sponsors them.

A) Yes B) No C) No Given

10. An educational campaign was introduced by TES to make the tourists understand the negative and positive impacts of their travel decisions.

A) Yes B) No C) No Given

Task 3. Read the text and fill in the gaps 11-16 with the parts of the sentences indicated by the letters A-G. One option is extra.

The most famous of the ancient wonders — and the only one still in existence — is the set of Great Pyramids located at Giza in Egypt. Built between 2,700 B.C. and 2,500 B.C. without the help of modern machines or tools, the largest of the pyramids, Khufu, reigned **11** _____.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were supposedly built by a Babylonian king around 600 B.C. near the Euphrates River. Planted more than 75 feet in the air, the gardens were spread over a large square brick terrace **12** _____.

The Statue of Zeus at Olympia filled the god of thunder's temple at the original site of the ancient Olympics. It was approximately 40 feet tall. This famous statue remained in the temple for more than 800 years **13** _____.

The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus was actually a series of temples that were built, destroyed, and rebuilt multiple times on the same site on the west coast of what is now Turkey. The last temple was destroyed around 262 A.D., **14** _____. The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus was located in what is now southeastern Turkey. It consisted of a base of steps topped by columns **15** _____.

The Colossus of Rhodes was the tallest statue of the ancient world. The huge bronze sculpture of the sun god Helios stood over 100 feet tall and was completed in 280 B.C. It stood for 60 years **16** _____.

The Lighthouse of Alexandria was completed around 270 B.C. Situated on the Island of Pharos near Alexandria, the lighthouse used mirrors to reflect sunlight to guide ships travelling the Nile River in and out of the busy harbour.

- A. which supported a pyramid-shaped roof
- B. and archaeologists discovered remains of some of the temple's columns in the 1860s
- C. which were destroyed during the war
- D. before being destroyed by an earthquake
- E. as the tallest building in the world for more than 4,000 years
- F. until the temple was closed
- G. supported by tall stone columns

Task 4. Read the following text for questions 17-25.

In 2010, the planetary defence team at NASA had identified and logged 90 per cent of the asteroids near Earth measuring 1km wide. These near-Earth objects', or NEOs, are the size of mountains and include anything within 50 million kilometres of Earth's orbit. With an estimated 50 left to record, NASA says none of the 887 it knows about are a significant danger to the planet.

Now NASA is working towards recording some of the smaller asteroids, those measuring 140 metres wide or more. Of the 25,000 estimated asteroids of this size, so far about 8,000 have been registered, leaving 17,000 unaccounted for. Considering that a 19-metre asteroid that exploded above the city of Chelyabinsk in Russia in 2013 injured 1,200 people, these middle-sized asteroids would be a serious danger if they enter Earth's orbit.

Whether NASA can find the remaining middle-sized NEOs depends on getting the money to build NEOCam, a 0.5-metre space telescope which would use infrared light to locate asteroids. If it did get the money, it could probably achieve its goal in ten years. Once logged, the planetary defence team would still need to work out how to defend the planet against being hit by the truly worrying asteroids - the PHAs.

'Potentially Hazardous Asteroids' are rocks close enough to pass within 7.5 million kilometres of Earth's orbit. NASA has created a map of 1,400 PHAs, none of which are expected to be a threat in the next one hundred years. With technology already available, NASA can track these objects and make predictions about possible impact, at which point two defence solutions could be launched.

The first is DART - the Double Asteroid Redirection Test. Plans are scheduled to test DART on the moon of an asteroid called Didymos. 'Didymoon' is 150 metres wide, orbiting its 800-metre mother, and hopefully the impact of DART will knock it out of its orbit enough for Earth-based telescopes to pick up.

Another suggested defence against a PHA on course to hit Earth is to blow it up using a nuclear weapon. It may sound like a plot from a film, and it was the subject of the 1998 film Armageddon, but the Hypervelocity Asteroid Mitigation Mission for Emergency Response (HAMMER) is a genuine NASA proposal. The eight-ton rockets would be fired at an approaching asteroid with the hope of bumping it off course. If the asteroid was too close to Earth for this plan to work, the rockets would carry nuclear bombs to blow it up instead.

For questions 17-20, choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

17. Almost all the NEOs which NASA identified are

- A) not dangerous for us
- B) not recorded fully.
- C) much larger than mountains
- D) travel Earth's orbit in a day.

18. Which is true about 1,200 people in the second paragraph?

- A) They all died in 2003.
- B) They left Chelyabinsk due to the danger of falling asteroid.
- C) They suffered from a middle-sized asteroid.
- D) NASA asked them questions about asteroids they saw.

19. Exploring the middle-sized dangerous asteroids

- A) is successfully completed in less than a year.
- B) requires new technology, funding and a decade.
- C) depends on NASA's sponsorship of the new project.
- D) is achievable without a NEOCam telescope.

20. Why was the film Armageddon mentioned in the text?

- A) to show how new technology was first used.

- B) to explain the process of producing new technology.
- C) to give an example of a NASA film.
- D) to give a clear picture of a new technology

For questions 21-25, decide if the following statements agree with the information given in the text.

- 21.** Earth does not appear to be in danger from asteroids that measure one kilometer wide.
A) Yes B) No C) No information
- 22.** We don't need to worry about small asteroids under 20 meters wide.
A) Yes B) No C) No information
- 23.** A special telescope will provide a complete defense against asteroids hitting Earth.
A) Yes B) No C) No information
- 24.** PHAs are the biggest concern, but they're still not an immediate threat.
A) Yes B) No C) No information
- 25.** Didymoon's orbit is not able.
A) Yes B) No C) No information

Task 1. Read the passage and choose the best answer.

As, over the last four hundred years, tea-leaves became available throughout much of Asia and Europe, the ways in which tea was drunk changed. The Chinese considered the quality of the leaves and the ways in which they were cured are essential. People in other cultures added new ingredients besides tea-leaves and hot water. They drank tea with milk, sugar, spices like cinnamon and cardamom, and herbs such as mint or sage. The variations are endless. For example, in Western Sudan, on the edge of the Sahara Desert, sesame oil is added to milky tea on cold mornings. In England, tea, unlike coffee, acquired a reputation as a therapeutic drink that promoted health. Indeed, in European and Arab countries as well as in Persia and Russia, tea was praised for its restorative and health-giving properties. One Dutch physician, Cornelius Blankaart, advised that to maintain health, a minimum of eight to ten cups a day should be drunk and that up to 50 to 100 daily cups could be consumed safely.

- 1.** According to the passage, in which countries did the tea leaves become available over the last 400 years?
A) Russia & USA B) England & France
C) Asia & Europe D) Persia & Russia
- 2.** What were the other ingredients added while making the tea?
A) Sugar & Milk B) Herbs (Mint & Sage)
C) Spices (Cinnamon & Cardamom) D) All of the above
- 3.** In which place was sesame oil added to milky tea?
A) On the edge of the Sahara Desert, Western Sudan
B) Japanese and Middle Eastern countries
C) Southern Arab countries
D) None of the above
- 4.** Which countries have praised tea for its restorative and health-giving properties?
A) Arab & Europe B) Persia & Russia
C) Both A & B D) England & France
- 5.** Which physician advised to consume eight to ten cups of tea a day?
A) Al-zahrawi B) Ibn Sina

Task 2. Read the passage accurately and determine if the author's opinion in the provided statement agrees (Yes) or disagrees (No) with it or if it is not included (Not Given) in the passage.

In Australia, the University of Sydney's Professor Ian Caterson says while major genetic defects may be rare, many people probably have minor genetic variations that combine to dictate the weight and are responsible for things such as how much we eat, the amount of exercise we do and the amount of energy we need. When you add up all these little variations, the result is that some people are genetically predisposed to putting on weight. He says while the fast/slow metabolism debate may have been settled, that doesn't mean some other subtle change in the metabolism gene won't be found in overweight people. He is confident that science will, eventually, be able to 'cure' some forms of obesity. Still, the only effective way for the vast majority of overweight and obese people to lose weight is a change of diet and an increase in exercise.

Choose A, B or C to the following statements.

6. Dr Susan Jebb said that the genetic defects for obesity may be rare.
A) Yes B) No C) No Given
7. Some people are genetically liable to putting on weight.
A) Yes B) No C) No Given
8. Caterson believed that science will help in curing some of the obesity forms.
A) Yes B) No C) No Given
9. Obese people often try to deny their responsibility.
A) Yes B) No C) No Given
10. One of the most effective ways to lose weight is to exercise daily, and follow a healthy-eating plan.
A) Yes B) No C) No Given

Task 3. Read the text and fill in the gaps 11-16 with the parts of the sentences indicated by the letters A-G. One option is extra.

When you ride an escalator, you might not realize that it's probably one of the biggest and most expensive machines **11** _____. Despite their size and cost, though, they're actually fairly simple machines.

Escalators are basically just long conveyor belts. They have rotating chains that pull a set of stairs in a constant cycle, **12** _____.

With this basic circular motion, they are able to move many people a short distance quickly.

There were actually many people who thought of the idea over time, **13** _____.

In 1859 Nathan Ames patented the first "escalator" **14** _____. However, he never made a working model of his concept.

In 1892, Jesse W. Reno patented the "Endless Conveyor or Elevator." He also produced the first working escalator and installed it along the Old Iron Pier at Coney Island in New York City in 1896.

Soon afterward, George A. Wheeler patented his own ideas for an escalator. He never built working models of any of his ideas, but Charles Seeberger bought his patents. Some of Wheeler's ideas were used in Seeberger's prototype escalator **15** _____. Seeberger also came up with the name "escalator" in 1900. He put the word together from Latin root words scala, e and tor, which he roughly translated as "means of traversing from." **16** _____, Seeberger did not simply name the escalator to be similar to the word elevator.

- A. although it sounds like elevator
- B. which you use regularly
- C. that was built by the Otis Elevator Company in 1899
- D. which is the world's longest outdoor escalator system with a total length of 2,600 feet
- E. but many of them never acted upon it
- F. creating a moving staircase
- G. when he came up with the idea for “revolving stairs”

Task 4. Read the following text for questions 17-25.

Social media, magazines and shop windows bombard people daily with things to buy, and British consumers are buying more clothes and shoes than ever before. Online shopping means it is easy for customers to buy without thinking, while major brands offer such cheap clothes that they can be treated like disposable items - worn two or three times and then thrown away.

In Britain, the average person spends more than £1,000 on new clothes a year, which is around four per cent of their income. That might not sound like much, but that figure hides two far more worrying trends for society and for the environment. First, a lot of that consumer spending is via credit cards. British people currently owe approximately £670 per adult to credit card companies. That's 66 per cent of the average wardrobe budget. Also, not only are people spending money they don't have, they're using it to buy things they don't need. Britain throws away 300,000 tons of clothing a year, most of which goes into landfill sites.

People might not realize they are part of the disposable clothing problem because they donate their unwanted clothes to charities. But charity shops can't sell all those unwanted clothes. 'Fast fashion' goes out of fashion as quickly as it came in and is often too poor quality to recycle; people don't want to buy it second-hand. Huge quantities end up being thrown away, and a lot of clothes that charities can't sell are sent abroad, causing even more economic and environmental problems.

However, a different trend is springing up in opposition to consumerism - the 'buy nothing' trend. The idea originated in Canada in the early 1990s and then moved to the US, where it became a rejection of the overspending and overconsumption of Black Friday and Cyber Monday during Thanksgiving weekend. On Buy Nothing Day people organize various types of protests and cut up their credit cards. Throughout the year, Buy Nothing groups organize the exchange and repair of items they already own.

The trend has now reached influencers on social media who usually share Posts of clothing and make-up that they recommend for people to buy. Some YouTube stars now encourage their viewers not to buy anything at all for periods as long as a year. Two friends in Canada spent a year working towards buying only food. For the first three months they learned how to live without buying electrical goods, clothes or things for the house. For the next stage, they gave up services, for example haircuts, eating out at restaurants or buying petrol for their cars. In one year, they'd saved \$55,000.

The changes they made meant two fewer cars on the roads, a reduction in plastic and paper packaging and a positive impact on the environment from all the energy saved. If everyone followed a similar plan, the results would be impressive. But even if you can't manage a full year without going shopping, you can participate in the anti-consumerist movement by refusing to buy things you don't need. Buy Nothing groups send a clear message to companies that people are no longer willing to accept the environmental and human cost of overconsumption.

For questions 17-20, choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

17. How much income do the Britons spend on buying clothes on average every year?

- A) more than a half
- B) majority
- C) none
- D) less than a tenth

- 18.** Which is not mentioned in the text as a worrying British lifestyle?
- A) They spend on items that are beyond their budget.
 - B) They send on clothes that they don't need actually.
 - C) They drop too many clothes into the rubbish.
 - D) They wear clothes until they are too old to wear.
- 19.** What is the idea behind the 'buy nothing' trend?
- A) stop purchasing completely
 - B) prevent excessive spending on shopping
 - C) ban Black Friday shopping offers
 - D) stop getting loans from credit companies
- 20.** What do Nothing groups tell production companies?
- A) People are against damage to nature and society because of consumerism.
 - B) People don't want to spend much money on items.
 - C) Online shopping will replace traditional shops.
 - D) Companies should not generate too much rubbish.

For questions 21-25, decide if the following statements agree with the information given in the text.

- 21.** People buy clothes because they want to throw them away.
- A) True
 - B) False
 - C) No information
- 22.** The amount the average Briton owes on credit cards is one-third of the amount they spend on clothes each year.
- A) True
 - B) False
 - C) No information
- 23.** Charities can find ways to use clothes even if they are not very good quality.
- A) True
 - B) False
 - C) No information
- 24.** Buy Nothing Day is popular only in the UK.
- A) True
 - B) False
 - C) No information
- 25.** If everyone followed the Buy Nothing idea, the environment would benefit.
- A) True
 - B) False
 - C) No information